

THE “TIGERS” IN XI JINPING’S ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN

CHEN Gang

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Executive Summary

1. With the investigation of Zhou Yongkang, the retired Communist Party of China (CPC) security czar, and hundreds of his family members and protégés, Xi invalidated the immunity of Politburo Standing Committee members from corruption probes. The government has yet to make an official statement about Zhou's case however.
2. After Xi's assumption of office, an unprecedented number of vice-ministerial-level-and-above incumbent officials ("tigers" in Xi's words) has been investigated for corruption charges, among whom Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Su Rong was of the highest ranking. Xu Caihou, a retired vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, was also probed.
3. Over 30 senior officials had been investigated between November 2012 and June 2014, a deep contrast to the average six cases per annum in Hu Jintao's second term (2008-2012).
4. Many of these probed officials have worked in the CPC's security and legal system, the petroleum industry, the Ministry of Land and Resources or the Sichuan province where Zhou once held key positions.
5. Sichuan province, one of Zhou's major power bases, and coal-rich Shanxi Province, contributed the most number of disgraced senior officials among all provinces. The probes on Zhou's protégés covered other provinces as well.
6. Xi is a game-changer in CPC's anti-corruption record as his populist move against elite corruption is on-going and extensive, while official extravagance is also being dealt with.
7. Xi and his anti-corruption aide Wang Qishan sent two batches of inspection teams (*xunshizu*) in May and October 2013 to the provinces, state corporations and public service organizations to solicit public tip-offs on local grafts.

8. The leadership plans to send another two batches of inspection teams in 2014, covering more localities, state-owned enterprises and government organizations. Rampant corruption has been found in places like Hunan province, Shanxi province, Jiangxi province, Guizhou province, and the Three Gorges Corporation.
9. To enhance the authority of disciplinary inspection committees at various levels, the leadership has decided to put them under the direct control of the higher-level disciplinary inspection committees, while weakening the leadership relationship between party committees and disciplinary inspection committees at the same level.
10. In December 2012, Xi announced the Eight Directives (*baxiang guiding*) to curb red tape and extravagance, and in December 2013, the CPC issued the Six Injunctions (*liuxiang jinling*) to ban almost all forms of gifts, receptions and tourism trips at government expense.